

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (Amended) A method for identifying an individual having a disorder [PCS, AIH, Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis] comprising a step of detecting a presence or absence of a Primary Schlerosing Cholangitis, hereinafter, PSC [PCS], associated retroviral nucleic acid molecule wherein [a] the presence of the retroviral nucleic acid molecule indicates that the individual has [the] a disorder related to PSC, Autoimmune Hepatitis, hereinafter AIH, Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule has a [the] nucleotide sequence depicted in SEQ. ID. No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7.

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4. (Amended) A method for identifying an individual infected with the [a] PSC associated retrovirus comprising a [the] step of detecting the presence or absence of a PSC associate retroviral nucleic acid molecule, wherein the presence of the nucleic acid molecule indicates that the individual is infected with the virus.

5. (Amended) A method for inhibiting replication of the PSC associated retrovirus in an individual infected with the virus by administering a composition which targets a [the] PSC pol sequence in a therapeutically effective amount.

Please add the following new claims:

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7. (New) A method for identifying an *in vitro* sample infected with the PSC associated retrovirus comprising the step of detecting the presence or absence of the PSC associated retroviral nucleic acid molecule, wherein the presence of the nucleic acid molecule indicates that the sample is infected with the virus.

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8. (New) A method for inhibiting replication of the PSC associated retrovirus in an *in vitro* sample infected with the virus by administering a composition which targets the PSC pol sequence in an effective amount.

9. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the composition is an antisense molecule.

10. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the composition is a ribozyme molecule.--

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 have been amended to merely correct any typographical errors or to correct any informalities. New claim 7 is drawn to a method of identifying an *in vitro* sample infected with the PSC associated retrovirus. It is fully supported by the instant specification at pages 18, lines 16-24, and 19 lines 11-16. New claim 8 is drawn to a method of inhibiting replication of the PSC associated retrovirus in an *in vitro* sample. It is fully supported by the instant specification at pages 21, lines 16- 37, and 22, lines 1-35.